

Remarks

Claims 1-43 pending in the application. The Examiner issued a restriction requirement. Applicants elected to prosecute claims 14-25, 33-40, 42 and 43 with traverse. All the claims need to be searched in the same areas. Therefore, there would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims. Claims 1-13, 26-32 and 41 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 14-25, 33-40, 42 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Luthra et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,962,103). According to the Examiner, Luthra teaches a composite body having a fibrous material which preferably has a coating of a carbon material to form a perform. The Examiner then states that boron carbide powder is added to the perform, which is then infiltrated with elemental silicon to form a silicon carbide product. The Examiner then states that the formed composite comprises at least 10 volume % fibrous material, 5-95% silicon carbide and 1-30% elemental silicon. Further, the Examiner does admit that Luthra et al fail to disclose the grains size of the silicon carbide. Based upon this statement, the Examiner concludes that the reference is considered to inherently possess the grain size, absent tangible evidence to the contrary. Applicants respectfully disagree. Luthra et al fail to teach Applicants' invention.

Luthra et al fail to teach the Applicants' invention. Luthra et al. fail to teach the use of liquid naphthalene infiltration step in the process used by the Applicants to form the composite. Nowhere in Luthra et al is there a teaching of infiltrating a green body with liquid naphthalene and pyrolysis of the liquid naphthalene to form the char prior to silicon melt infiltration as required to form the composition of claim 14. Consequently, Luthra et al. does not anticipate

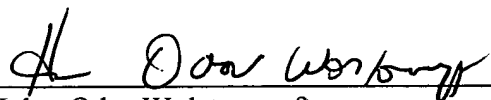
Applicants' claimed invention. In addition, Luthra et al. fails to render obvious Applicants' claimed invention for the same reason.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested. Applicants further submit that the references cited by the Examiner, by themselves or in any combination, neither anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. If the Examiner has any questions, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,

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